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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180817

FOLLOWING REPEAT KHARTOUM 3143 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI
AMMAN BEIRUT BELGRADE BONN BRUSSELS DAMASCUS GENEVA JIDDA LONDON
MADRID MOSCOW PARIS ROME SANA TEL AVIV BAGHDAD USUN
NATO USICA WASHDC JUL 13

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3143

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG OAU XA XF
SUBJECT: OAU CONCIL OF MINISTERS, DAY VI: MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE
SITUATION GRAVE -INCREASED SUPPORT URGED FOR EGYPT AND OTHERS

REF: A. KHARTOUM 3141 (NOTAL) B. STATE 163024 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (COM) COMPLETED DELIBERATIONS
ON MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE QUESTIONS JULY 12. OAU
EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR EGYPT (BY NAME) FRONTLINE ARAB
STATES (UNSPECIFIED) AND THE PALESTINE LIBERATION
ORGANIZATION (PLO). ISRAELI AGGRESSION IN LEBANON AND
CONTINUED INTRANSIGENCE WERE CONDEMNED. APARENTLY, ZIONISM-
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RACISM LINKAGE IS NOT INCLUDED IN RESOLUTIONS.
PREDOMINANCE OF MODERATE AFRICAN APPROACH TO ISSUES
FACING COM CONTINUES TO HOLD. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF DISUSSION ON MIDDLE EAST AND
PALESTINE REPORTS DURING MORNING SESSION, OFFICIAL OAU
SPOKESMAN ANU BRIEFED PRESS ON SUBSTANCE OF RESULTANT RESOLUTIONS.

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HE CHARACTERIZED PLENARY DEBATE ON TWO ISSUES AS "SERENE" AND "CALMEST SINCE OPENING OF COM". ONU SAID COM MAINTAINED THAT MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE SITUATIONS REMAINED GRAVE.
COM HAD AGREED UNANIMOUSLY THAT "INCREASED SUPPORT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO EGYPT, THE FRONTLINE (ARAB) STATES AND THE PLO IN THEIR JUST STURGGLE TO REGAIN THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."
2. COM CONDEMNED ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST LEBANON AND HER CONTINUED ARROGANCE AND INTRANSIGENCE "ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING PEACE INITIATIVE OF NOVEMBER 1977." COM NOTED THAT IN SPITE OF GENUINE DESIRE BY ALL ARAB COUNTRIES TO FIND PEACEFUL SOLUTION "ISRAEL HAS STUBBORNLY REFUSED TO GIVE UP OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS." COM GRACIOUSLY COMMENDED SUDANESE PRES. NIMEIRI'S EFFORTS WITH REGARD TO ARAB UNITY AND URGED OAU AND ITS SECGEN "TO INTENSIFY ACTIONS TO PROMOTE AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINIAN PROBLEMS IN ALL INTERNATIONAL FORUMS." SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, BUT AS RECIPROCAL MOVE, COM RECOMMENDED THAT AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BE ACCORDED OBSERVER STATUS IN ARAB LEAGUE.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS DESCRIBED BY SPOKESMAN ONU MAKE NO MENTION OF ZIONISM-RACISM LINKAGE AND THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY OTHER PLACE ON AGENDA WHERE ISSUE MIGHT ARISE. IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THAT SOME LANGUAGE MAY BE INCLUDED IN OAU MIDDLE EAST/PALESTINE REPORT WHICH MAKES Z-R LINKAGE IN INTRODUCTORY PHRASES LEADING TO RESOLUTIONS.
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DURING JULY 12 PLENARY DEBATE CALL WAS MADE FOR AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY TOWARD "THE ZIONIST-RACIST AXIS COMPRISING PRETORIA, SALISBURY AND TEL AVIV, WHICH CONSTITUTES THREAT TO STABILITY AND PROGRESS OF AFRO-ARAB NATIONS". BUT THIS LANGUAGE DIDNOT APPEAR IN RECOMMENDATIONS AS RELATED BY OAU SPOKESMAN.

4. COMMENT: OAU RESOLUTIONS ON MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE ARE AS MILD AS COULD BE EXPECTED AND PROBABLY REFLECT SUCCESS OF EGYPTIAN PRE-KHARTOUM LIBBYING AMONG NINE SYMPATHETIC AFRICAN STATES.
RESOLUTIONS CONTRAST VIVIDLY WITH OAU FEB 1978 TRIPOLI COM RESOLUTIONS BECAUSE THEY SUPPORT RATHER THAN CONDEMN TYPTIAN MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS. MODERATIONS CONTINUES TO PREVAIL. BERGUS. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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